

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05287 132023Z
ACTION INR-07

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R 131137Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2676
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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5287

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, IN
SUBJ: BIO DATA ON L.K. ADVANI, MINISTER FOR INFOR-
MATION AND BROADCASTING

1. A JOURNALIST BY PROFESSION, ADVANI IS A FOUNDER-MEMBER OF THE JAN SANGH AND HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY SINCE 1973. BORN NOVEMBER 8, 1927 IN KARACHI, HE IS A SHAVEN SIKH. FOLLOWING EDUCATION IN LAW AT BOMBAY UNIVERSITY, ADVANI JOINED THE RSS AND RETURNED TO KARACHI TO WORK AS AN RSS ORGANIZER, EVENTUALLY BECOMING THE ORGANIZATION'S CHIEF IN THE CITY. FLEEING TO INDIA AT THE TIME OF PARTITION, HE HEADED THE RSS UNIT IN RAJASTHAN IN THE LATE 1940'S. HE HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN JAN SANGH AFFAIRS SINCE 1951, HOLDING VARIOUS LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE PARTY AND EVENTUALLY BECOMING ITS PRESIDENT IN 1973.

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2. ADVANI ENTERED DELHI POLITICS IN THE LATE 1950'S AND FOR A TIME HEADED THE JAN SANGH'S DELHI UNIT. HE ALSO SERVED AS INTERIM EDITOR OF THE PARTY'S WEEKLY ORGAN, THE "ORGANIZER". IN 1967 HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL. HE RESIGNED THIS POSITION IN 1970 TO SUCCESSFULLY CONTEST A SEAT IN

THE RAJYA SABHA. ADVANI WAS RE-ELECTED TO THIS SEAT IN 1976, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS UNDER DETENTION AT THE TIME.

3. ARRESTED AT THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EMERGENCY IN JUNE 1975, ADVANI WAS RELEASED IN JANUARY 1977 WHEN ELECTIONS WERE ANNOUNCED. SINCE HE WAS ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE UPPER HOUSE OF A PARLIAMENT, ADVANI DID NOT CENTEST A LOK SABHA SEAT. HE IS THE ONLY RAJYA SABHA MP WHO IS A MEMBER OF MORARJI DESAI'S CABINET. FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE, ADVANI BECAME A GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NEWLY-FORMED JANATA PARTY AND ACTED AS ITS SPOKESMAN ON ORGANIZATIONAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS. HE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMPAIGN AND BITTERLY CRITICIZED MRS GANDHI'S REGIME FOR INSTITUTING "REPRESSIVE" MEASURES DURING THE EMERGENCY AND "DEFACING" THE CONSTITUTION. ADVANI IS A STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE COMPLETE MERGER OF THE JAN SANGH INTO THE JANATA PARTY.

4. CONSIDERED A MODERATE AMONG THE SENIOR JAN SANGH LEAERSHIP, ADVANI HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS FRIENDLY, SOFT-SPOKEN AND HIGHLY CAPABLE AS A POLITICAL ORGANIZER. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE CHARACTERIZED HIM AS POLISHED, ARTICULATE AND EVEN ELOQUENT ON OCCASION. UNLIKE SOME LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF THE JAN SANGH AND RSS, HE IS MARRIED AND HAS AN ATTRACTIVE WIFE. ADVANI IS A VEGETARIAN.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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